

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to a non-final Office Action mailed February 26, 2003.

Prior to the amendment above, claims 2-8, 11-15, 17-25, 27-31, 33-34, 36-56, 58-70, 72-82, 84-90, and 92-100 were pending in the application. Claims 2, 12, 17, 24, 27, 30, 38, 50, 58, 75, 89, and 97 stand rejected. Claims 24, 30, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,123 to Woolston (hereinafter "Woolston"). Claims 2, 12, 17, 27, 38, 58, 75, 89, and 97 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unallowable over claims 27, 28, 31, and 32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,028,593 to Rosenberg, *et al.* (hereinafter "Rosenberg"). Claims 3-8, 11, 13-15, 18-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 26, 37, 39-49, 51-56, 59-70, 72-74, 76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-96, and 98-100 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has cancelled claims 24, 30, and 50. Now, claims 2-8, 11-15, 17-23, 25, 27-29, 31, 33-34, 36-49, 51-56, 58-70, 72-82, 84-90, and 92-100 are pending in the application. These amendments are discussed in further detail below, and support for these amendments may be found in the specification and the original claims. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claims 24, 30, and 50

Claims 24, 30, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Woolston. To expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 24, 30, and 50.

II. Claims 2, 12, 17, 27, 38, 58, 75, 89, and 97

Claims 2, 12, 17, 27, 38, 58, 75, 89, and 97 stand rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unallowable over claims

27, 31, and 32 of Rosenberg. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer herewith for Patent 6,028,593, and respectfully requests that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

III. Claims 3-8, 11, 13-15, 18-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-56, 59-70, 72-74, 76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-96, and 98-100

Claims 3-8, 11, 13-15, 18-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-56, 59-70, 72-74, 76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-96, and 98-100 are objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim. The examiner stated however that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer herewith. Accordingly, independent claims 2, 12, 17, 27, 38, 58, 75, 89, and 97 are allowable. Claims 3-8, 11, 13-15, 18-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-56, 59-70, 72-74, 76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-96, and 98-100 are dependent claims, depending from one of claims 2, 12, 17, 27, 38, 58, 75, 89, and 97. Thus, claims 3-8, 11, 13-15, 18-23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-56, 59-70, 72-74, 76, 78-82, 84-88, 90, 92-96, and 98-100 are allowable as well. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, 11-15, 17-23, 25, 27-29, 31, 33-34, 36-49, 51-56, 58-70, 72-82, 84-90, and 92-100 are allowable. A favorable Office Action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (336)-607-7311 to discuss any matter related to the application.

Date: _____

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COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Tyson:

Thank you for your telephone call. As you instructed, enclosed please find page 21 of my May 27, 2003 filing for 09/153,781 (IMM053). If you need anything else, or have any questions, please call me at (336) 607-7311.

Thank you,

John C. Alemanni

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Serial No. 09/153,781
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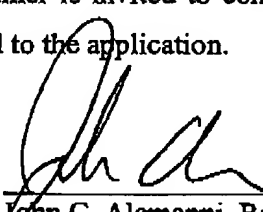
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May 27, 2003


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